Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 165281 ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-01 /068 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/STA:C H BLUM:CMS APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:T F O'HERRON EB/ICD/TRP - D BURNS (SUBS) EUR/RPE - P MCLEAN (SUBS) TREASURY:DEISS

-----089749 291508Z /11

OR 291447Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 165281

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, US

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION -- RAW AND REFINED SUGAR FROM THE EC

REFS: A) STATE 161522, B) STATE 162961, C) STATE 164012

1. TREASURY ANNOUNCED JUNE 28 THAT IT IS SIMULTANEOUSLY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 165281

INITIATING A COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON RAW AND REFINED SUGAR FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND MAKING A PRELIMINARY AFFIRMATIVE CVD DETERMINATION ON THESE PRODUCTS. TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE CONTAINED PARA 2 BELOW. TREASURY WILL PUBLISH BOTH NOTICES IN FEDERAL REGISTER OF JUNE 30. NOTICES WILL PROVIDE FOR A COMMENT PERIOD THROUGH JULY 17, NOT JULY 5 AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REF B). THESE ACTIONS

ARE BEING TAKEN UNDER U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW. TREASURY IS STILL EVALUATING WHETHER TO INITIATE AN ANTIDUMPING INVESTIGATION AS WELL.

2. BEGIN TEXT. TREASURY ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY AFFIRMATIVE COUNTERVAILING DUTY DETERMINATION AND EXPEDITED INVESTIGATION OF SUGAR FROM EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT TODAY ISSUED A PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS SUBSIDIZING EXPORTS

OF SUGAR AND INITIATED A FORMAL EXPEDITED INVESTIGATION UNDER THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE OF THE LARGE SHIPMENTS FROM FRANCE AND BELGIUM ALREADY ENTERED AND THE SIZE OF THE SUBSIDY WHICH ALLEGEDLY EXCEEDS THE FOB PRICE OF THE SUGAR. THE ALLEGED SUBSIDY INVOLVES PAYMENT OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRICES FOR SUGAR OBTAINED ON EXPORT SALES AND A MINIMUM INTERNAL EC PRICE FOR SUGAR SET UNDER THE EC'S COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY TO EXPORTERS, PROCESSORS, OR GROWERS OF SUGAR IN ANY OF THE NINE EC COUNTRIES.

ALLEGATIONS THAT EXPORTS OF SUGAR ARE BEING DUMPED ARE STILL BEING CONSIDERED ALTHOUGH NO DECISION TO INITIATE A FORMAL ANTIDUMPING INVESTIGATION HAS YET BEEN MADE.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 165281

THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW REQUIRES THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO COLLECT AN ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS DUTY EQUAL TO THE SIZE OF A BOUNTY OR GRANT (SUBSIDY) FOUND TO HAVE BEEN PAID BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ON THE EXPORTATION OR MANUFACTURE OF MERCHANDISE IMPORTED INTO THE U.S. A PETITION WAS RECEIVED WHICH ALLEGED THAT IMPORTS OF SOME 50,000 TONS OF SUGAR FROM THE EC WERE BENEFITTING FROM SUBSIDIES UNDER THE COMMON AGRICULTURE POLICY OF THE EC.

TREASURY HAS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED IN COUNTERVAILING DUTY CASES CONCERNING CANNED HAM, CHEESE, AND BUTTER COOKIES THAT COMPARABLE PAYMENTS PROVIDED UNDER THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY ARE BOUNTIES OR GRANTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW.

IMPORTS OF SUGAR FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WERE VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY 10.9 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1977. NOTICE OF THIS ACTION WILL APPEAR IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER OF JUNE 30, 1978. END TEXT.

3. LONDON--PLEASE PASS DAVID BURNS OF EB/TRP NOW IN LONDON. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: EXPORTS, SUGAR

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 29 jun 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE165281
Document Source: COP

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: C H BLUM:CMS Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D780269-0456

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978067/aaaaafjl.tel

Line Count: 116 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation Codes. Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: f454d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EB

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2390074 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION -- RAW AND

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, US, EEC

To: BRUSSELS Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f454d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014